

WYCOMBE IS HIT BY ILLNESS, INJURY

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE WANDERERS, with a side weakened by illness, injury and a player's late arrival had no chance in their Isthmian League game at Ilford.

Ilford: Hutson; Coughlan; Halliday; Peacock, M. Bullman, Betson; Martin, Pook, Christmas, Tappin, Rutter.

Wycombe Wanderers: Wells; Bradshaw, Beck; Baker, Rundle, Gale; Royston, Thompson, Bates, Horseman, Merrick.

Referee: M. Franklin (Kenton).

Goalkeeper John Maskell fell out of the Wycombe side at short notice because of a sudden illness, and Samuels dropped out with a knee injury.

Wells went into goal and Royston on the right wing.

To add to the teams difficulties, left half Charlie Gale was 18 minutes late because he was held up by traffic.

Consequently Wycombe had their backs to the wall and Wells made some fine saves.

Bates missed a great chance after 15 minutes, but with only Hutson to beat he flicked the ball wide.

The Essex side went ahead through a fine long shot by **PEACOCK** in the 22nd minute after a Pook shot had bounced off the referee.

In the 36th minute **COUGHLAN** scored from the penalty spot after Gale had handled.

Half-time: Ilford 2, Wycombe 0.

Straight from the re-start, Ilford went further ahead.

Peacock headed forward and **RUTTER'S** shot hit the post. While the Wycombe defence stodd rooted, the left winger followed up and scored.

The whole Wycombe defence was at sixes and sevens.

Wells made a spectacular save to a hard free kick by Peacock after Gale had tripped Pook on the edge of the box.

POOK scored Ilford's fourth seven minutes before time.

RESULT:

ILFORD	4
WYCOMBE WAN.	0